tor lending by the nationalised banks so as to improve the effectiveness of the credit system;

(b) if so, what are the areas|aspects of the bank's rural lending examined by Government and what are the shortcomings; if any, in the effectiveness of the existing policy in the growth of the agricultural and other sectors and rural economy; and

(c) what modifications are contemplated by Government in the policy framework for rural lending to obtain optimal benefits out of banks' involvementin the rural economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had asked the senior executives of the public sector banks to carry out a study of rural lending in some branches of their banks to make qualitative assessment of the credit delivery system in relation to objectives of rural lending, the strengths and weaknesses of the organisational set up; quality of field work done; coordinations with State authorities and other agencies involved in rural development; etc. Accordingly, field studies were conducted by public sector banks and the study reports were sent by them to RBI. Some of the findings of the study were as under:

(i) The emphasis in rural lending has been on the achievement of quantitative targets. It is also necessary to evaluate the ultimate increase in agricultural production, productivity and income levels as a result of increased flow of credit.

(ii) Wherever, backward and forward linkages and other infastructural support linkages and othe infrastructural support were weak and inadequate bank credit could not produce the desired results.

(iii) The target oriented approach to rural lending under Government sponsored schemes instead of project approach or area intensive approach has resulted in the dillution of the quality of lending.

(iv) There is a deterioration in the recovery climate in general.

(v) The support from State Governments in formulating credit plans was not adequate. Further in the implementation of the credit plans some deficiencies have developed on account of multiplicity of agencies.

(vi) The implementation of anti-poverty programmes can be made more effective by giving greater rsponsibility to banks. The selection of beneficiaries under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and under the scheme for providing Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) be linked from District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and the District Industries Centre (DIC) respectively and left to a committee of bankers at block level.

(vii) Each rural branch should be accountable for meeting credit requirements of the command area allotted to it.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has further reported that it has constituted a Committee to examine the important suggestions made in the Seminar and to make suitable recommendations regarding the operational aspect of their implementation.

Hundred Rupee Coin

93. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in 'the Hindustan Times' dated the 6th January, 1988 regardng the breaking up of a hundred rupee coin into pieces when inadvertantly dropped at a nationalised bank;

(b) whether Government have made any inquiry into the production and circulation of poor quality of coins of such a high denomination; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Government is aware of the press report.

(b) and (c) Special coins known as proof coins/uncirculated coins in the denomination of Rs. 100 have been brought out to commemorate special occasions. These coins are individually struck and are of exceptionally high quality. These are not issued for general circulation. The price of these coins, which are usually bought by coin collections, is also much higher than the face value.

Some time back two persons who were engaged in the manufacture of counterfeit coins of Rs. 100 denomination were arrested in Delhi. It is likely that the Rs. 100 coin referred to in the press report is a counterfeit one.

Pakistani Espionage Activities in Indian Border Areas

94. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has intensfied its espionage activities in India, particularly in the border areas; and

(b) if so, how many spy gangs were busted in the border areas during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid tn the Table of the House.

Tripartite Meeting on GNLF Problem

95. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government called for a tripartite meet to thrash out the GNLF issue;

(b) if so, when was the meeting held and what was its outcome; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the GNLF leaders are constantly changing their stand for holding negotiations and for settlement of the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A tripartite meeting was held in Delhi on January 25, 1988 which was attended by the Chief Minister, West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu, Shri Subash Ghising, President of the GNLF and the Union Home Minister. It was agreed to have further discussions to give final shape to the concept of the Hill Development Council.

Notices issued to Builders for Fire Safety Measures

96. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued notices to 17 builders for enforcement of fire safety measures in Delhi;

(b) if so, how many of them have complied with the rules so far; and

(c) what action has been taken against the builders for violation of the fire safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) 21 fresh notices have been given to builders/occupiers.